1	2	3	4
28.	Tripura	1	Agartala (West Tripura)
29.	Uttar Pradesh	20	Agra, Allahabad, Ballia, Banda, Basti, Bijnor, Etah, Etawah, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Hardoi, Jalaun (Orai), Kanpur Nagar, Maharajganj, Meerut, Moradabad, Muzaffar Nagar, Partapgarh, Shahjahanpur, Sidharth Nagar
30	Uttaranchal	4	Dehradun, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Uttar Kashi
31.	West Bengal	3	Howrah, Durgapur (Burdwan-II), Raghunathpur (Purulia)

Promotion of sports in the country

3962. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI) for spotting and nurturing of sports talent, promotion of sports in the country;

(b) the quantum of funds incurred on sports promotion during the last three years, sports-wise/year-wise; and

(c) the details of achievement made in international sports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of schemes implemented by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for spotting and nurturing sports talent and the promotion of sports in the country are under:—

NATIONAL SPORTS TALENT CONTEST (NSTC): The main objective of the scheme is to scout talent among school children in the age of 8—14 years and nurture them by imparting scientific training in SAI-adopted schools and 'akharas' to achieve excellence at national and international levels. SAI also provides coaches and special infrastructure facilities to these schools and akharas along with annual grant for purchase of sports equipments.

ARMY BOYS SPORTS COMPANIES (ABSC): The objective of the scheme is to scout talent in the age group of 8-14 years in collaboration with the Army and impart of them scientific training in their Centres to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The scheme, *inter alia*, also provides job opportunities in the Indian army.

SPECIAL AREA GAMES (SAG): The objective of the scheme is to scout and nurture talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural, coastal and hilly areas of the country and from regions such in sports talent, in terms of genetic and geographical characteristics/ advantages for excellence in particular sports disciplines.

The main objective of the scheme is to train talented and meritorious sports persons in the age group of 14-21 years. Under the Scheme, the State Governments are required to provide land free of cost to SAI, while the development of the infrastructure is done by SAI.

SAI TRAINING CENTRES(STC): Under this schemes, talented youth in the age group of 14-21 years are selected after assessment based on performance at national/state level competititions and through a battery of tests. The selected trainees are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis. The scheme is directly implemented by SAI. However, the state Government is required to provide the land and necessary sports infrastructure and other allied facilities like hostel building, etc. to the SAI.

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (COX): The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sports persons who are medal hopes for the country in international competitions. The scheme of Centre of Excellence envisages identification of talent in the country who has shown promising performance in the national competitions for further training at the Regional Centres of SAI for nearly 200 days in a year. They are provided with state-of-art facilities, equipment and scientific backup alongwith specialized training.

In all these schemes there is provision for payment of stipend and medical/insurance expenses, kit and competition exposure.

(b) Details of expenditure incurred on sports promotion under Plan during the last three years are as under:

	(Rs. in crores)
2004-05	262.04
2005-06	265.16
2006-07	402.25

(c) The number of medals won by Indian Sportspersons in major international competitions during the last three years is as under:-

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Athens Olympics 2004	-	01	-	01
Melbourne Commonwealth Games 2006	22	17	11	50
Doha Asian Games 2006	10	18	26	54

Dismal scenerio of sports and games

3963. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of sports culture in one of the major factors leading to dismal scenario in sports and games in the country; and

(b) if so, measures taken to bring about change in the parental and societal attitude towards sports?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to rectifying the present state of affairs, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been directed to prepare a "Comprehensive Sports Policy". This policy will address fundamental issue of making sports and games facilities available to the overwhelming majority of youth, adolescents and children of our country who have hither to had no or little access to organized games and sports facilities at grass-root in village and urban India. The policy will also address the question of the integration of sports and physcial education with the formal education system. It is only through this broad-basing sports in the country, that it will be possible to promote excellence in sports in a scientific and well coordinated manner,